



Kettle Range

CONSERVATION GROUP

Protecting Columbia Highlands forests and wildlife since 1976

January 31, 2014

Ms. Lauri Vigue
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 984501-1091
By email: Lands@dfw.wa.gov

Re: Kroupa Family Property – Ferry County

Dear Ms. Vigue:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Kettle Range Conservation Group, I write to express support for the proposed purchase of Kroupa property adjacent to the Kettle River and a conservation easement of 688 acres of low-elevation old growth forest located nearby. Both of these areas are exceptionally valuable to wildlife, aquatic species and in the best public interest.

Much of the Kettle River shoreline is privately owned and yet the stream reaches from Danville upstream to Midway are without significant rapids and as such the river is highly sought after by the public for swimming and floating during the summer months and by fishermen in any month the river is ice free. Yet as everyone knows who floats the Kettle River, public access to it is significantly limited, and especially in the case of boat launch and take out access, which is poor at best. More public access to the Kettle River will support the local economy and provide important amenity values to the recreating public.

The Kroupa property is also excellent wildlife habitat, especially for woodpeckers, waterfowl, owls and mule deer, providing low elevation winter and spring range habitat. Conservation easement and outright purchase by Department of Fish & Wildlife will prevent further development along this important stretch of the Kettle River. This will in turn support migrating wildlife moving between the Midway Mountain Range that extends from Granby Provincial Park in British Columbia to the Reservation of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indians.

We support and encourage Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to take action in support of acquisition and conservation easement of Chris & Nicky Kroupa and Family property in question.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Coleman
Executive Director

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